

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of producing a substrate with a mark, comprising:
 - a marking step of forming a mark having an information on a surface of a substrate; and
 - a reading step of reading the mark,

wherein prior to the reading step, at least a part of the mark is formed in a region of the substrate where a factor that hinders the reading of the mark in the reading step is not generated.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the marking step, the mark is formed in a direction nonparallel to the direction of generation of the factor that hinders reading of the mark.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the marking step, the mark is formed in plurality such that the marking positions of at least two consecutive ones of the marks are offset with respect to each other in a direction perpendicular to the direction of generation of the factor that hinders reading of the marks.
25. 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark is deformation of the substrate.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark is film attachment to the substrate.

5 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark is a change in color of the substrate.

10 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark is coloring of the substrate.

15 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the marking step, the mark is formed while moving the substrate.

20 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the reading step, a portion of the mark subjected to hindrance to reading due to the factor that hinders reading of the mark is inferred and implemented based on the results of reading of ones of the marks formed preceding and succeeding the formation of the mark subjected to the hindrance to reading.

25 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the reading step, the mark is read while moving the substrate.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the substrate is a continuous member.

12. The method according to claim 1, which is
5 of a roll-to-roll system.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the substrate is a non-light transmissive substrate.

10 14. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the substrate is a photovoltaic element substrate.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the mark comprises a character, a bar code, a two-
15 dimensional code or a combination thereof.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the mark is formed by a laser.

20 17. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the mark is formed by impression.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the mark is formed by printing.

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19. A mark reading program for reading marks
formed on a surface of a substrate, the program

making a computer execute:

- a step of reading a plurality of marks;
- a step of saving the results of reading of the marks as data;
- 5 a step of accessing data preceding and succeeding occurrence of a read error when the error occurs;
- a step of comparing the accessed data with each other; and
- 10 a step of inferring and complementing data in which the data error has occurred on the basis of the result of the comparison.

20. A mark reading apparatus for reading marks
15 formed on a surface of a substrate, comprising:

- means for reading marks;
- means for saving the read marks as data; and
- means for inferring and complementing, when a read error occurs, at least a portion of data in
20 which the data error has occurred on the basis of data stored by the means for saving preceding and succeeding the mark at which the read error has occurred.